

First Baptist Church
1600 S. Main Street
Lamar, Colorado 81052
(719) 336-4953

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Visit us on the Internet: www.lamarfbc.org

Return Service Requested

Come join us Sundays!

We currently are offering multiple service times on Sunday mornings. Please call the church to reserve the time you would like to attend.



The Messenger

Volume 53, Issue 8— August 2020



July 5

9:00a Service.....	31
Online.....	36

July 12

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11:00a Service.....	30
Online.....	36

July 19

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11:00a Service.....	18
Online.....	34

July 26

10:00a.....	54
11:00a.....	18
Online.....	40

August Mission Emphasis



Approved Workmen Are Not Ashamed

2 Timothy 2:15 Do your best to present yourself to God as one approved, a worker who has no need to be ashamed, rightly handling the word of truth.

AWANA is an international, Bible-centered, Christian youth organization dedicated to reaching boys & girls with the Gospel of Jesus Christ. Through this program, children learn about Jesus, love and serve Him, and share his redeeming love with others! AWANA is a vital community resource that actively involves church members, club attendees and parents. Please consider either a monetary gift, or a gift of your time each week as a volunteer to support this important mission!

Any funds collected for AWANA but not utilized this year, will be saved and utilized by the following year's AWANA club.



Some smart guy once said, “There is nothing permanent except change.” His name was Heraclitus and he said that well over 1500 years ago. Wow! Did he get that right! The only thing that can be predicted is unexpected change these days. I have heard things that I never thought I’d hear. I have seen things that I never thought could happen in the USA. I have actually said things that I thought I’d never have to say outloud and prepare for things that I never saw coming. One of my friends put it this way, “I think my autopilot has been permanently damaged. I’m flying manual all the time these days!” Amen.

And—confession time—I’m OK with change as long as I can prepare for it and it comes in small doses. That really hasn’t described the last 4-5 months, though. There comes a point in which we are all tempted to ask God to stop the roller coaster so we can get off and at least catch our breath—even to those adrenaline junkies who are addicted to the unknown.

I’ve spent a lot of time thinking about changes—and not just the changes that I’m experiencing or trying to get prepared for changes’ impact. I’ve been contemplating change itself. Think about it. From an earthly perspective, the only time in our existence where change stops is at death. That’s when we stop experiencing and noticing change. And we all have an aversion to death, yet we also have an aversion to change. It’s like a moth that is drawn to a flame. The very thing we want—homeostasis or a lack of change—is the very sign we no longer are alive here. Why is that?

As I have thought about it, I have come to the conclusion that it really isn’t change that’s the problem. It’s control. We—I—don’t like to feel out of control. I don’t like to be told what to do. So when I perceive someone saying that I need to do something—even if I know deep inside that they are right, I bristle. I don’t like to give up control. I like my world nice and predictable and a place where I call the shots.

Yet, the more I think about that, the more amusing it becomes. When did I ever really have control? As a believer in Christ, the words of James sting just as much as they lift my heart. “Every good and perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of lights who does not change like shifting shadows. (James 1:17, NIV)” Every good thing that I have claimed as an accomplishment in my life is actually a gift from God. Everything that I think I have control over is a gift from God. Control is an illusion. Hebrews 2:8 tells us Who really holds the control. “In putting everything under Christ, God left nothing that is not subject to him. Yet at present we do not see everything that is subject to him. (NIV)” If that’s true, then even Satan has to ask permission to do anything to us. Nothing gets by Christ. He’s got the control, whether we see it or not.

Yea, but pastor,” I can hear the pushback. “That’s might be good theology but it isn’t good reality. I mean, look at what people in the government are trying to do and take away from us! If we don’t take control, they we’ll lose!” Interesting. Romans 13:1 tells us that “there is no authority except that which God has established.” Yes, God can allow bad people into power. Human history proves that over and over again, but they cannot go beyond what God allows. Why? Even if the next ruler assumes command because of birth. Even if the next person in authority gains power fraudulently, no one stands independent of God’s authority. No one.

Now, I’m not saying that there isn’t a place or a biblical precedent for civil disobedience. That’s a whole different article. This is about change and about our human addiction to the myth of control. When we perceive that we lack control, change is bad—but is it? Or is that Satan really lying to us. Consider the following:

- God looked at Abraham and asked him to give up control and make a radical change by moving to a foreign and very pagan land. God said the same thing to Abraham’s dad, yet Abraham’s dad said, “No thank you. I like the feeling of control over my life that I have here in Ur.” Question: You know who Abraham is, I’m sure. What was his Dad’s name? You know the one that refused to change? (Yea, OK. You had to look it up didn’t you? He’s that unimportant to the story, isn’t he?)
- Consider Rahab who housed the Israeli spies in Jericho. God impressed upon her that radical change was in her future as well. That there would be a day when she could only look back, but never go back. And it all came down to a red string in her window. When the walls came down, Jericho was never her home again. Her people were all dead. She had to integrate into a whole new society, learn a new language, and all new customs. She never had ham loaf again. It was radical change. Do you think that the great great great great great great great great great great grandmother of Jesus ever regretted her decision?

Continued.....

- Paul was given control to hunt down Christians by the most powerful Jewish organization of its day. On the road to Damascus, Christ took control and Paul experienced the most powerful change in his life. He even lost control of what he could see for a time. Yes, I'm sure it wasn't comfortable, but where would Paul have ended up if God didn't bring about radical change in his life? For that matter, all of us Gentiles owe a debt of gratitude to Paul for his willingness to accept the change and give Christ the control. Where would we be?

If Romans 8:28 is correct, that "all things work out for the good for those who are in Christ Jesus and called according to his purpose..." If Romans 8:37 and forward are correct, that:

"We are more than conquerors through Him who loved us. For I am convinced that neither death nor life, neither angel nor demons, neither the present nor the future, nor any powers, neither height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God that is Christ Jesus our Lord."

If these truths are absolute as God claims them to be, then this must also be true. Any change that we face with Christ at the helm of our lives is good. It may be uncomfortable when we give up that sense of control. It may not feel good. We might have to stand when we are commanded to kneel. We might have to be still when the world around us is screaming for us to run. We might be called by God to run towards him when everyone is running away. But that's all control issues, not change issues. The truth of the matter is that when we are faced with overwhelming change, it is a sign that God is getting ready to do an overwhelming work. For Christians, that's a good thing. For those who stand against God, not so much.

Bottom line: what happens around us might not be exactly what we ordered. It might be a bowl of broccoli when we ordered chocolate cake. We might not have a clue where things are going. Or we might have a clue and really not like the trajectory of culture. None of that changes who really has control.

Paul writes one of the most touching letters in all the Bible to his protege and disciple, Timothy. We call it Second Timothy. In this letter, Paul basically tells Timothy that Paul is no longer going to be available to lean on in Timothy's times of need. Paul's life is coming to a close and that is going to mean radical change for young Timothy. This is what Paul tells Timothy on the eve of such radical change that Timothy is not going to be able to see what's happening or how to adjust course. Paul writes, "God did not give us a spirit of fear, but a spirit of power, of love and of self-discipline. (2 Timothy 1:7, NIV). The Holy Spirit tells you exactly the same thing in the changing days ahead.

God bless

Pastor Dave

Worship Opportunities

Outside services every Sunday morning at 10:00am and 11:00am.

Please bring a lawn chair or blanket to sit on.



KLMR 920 AM
Sunday
Mornings
@ 9:30



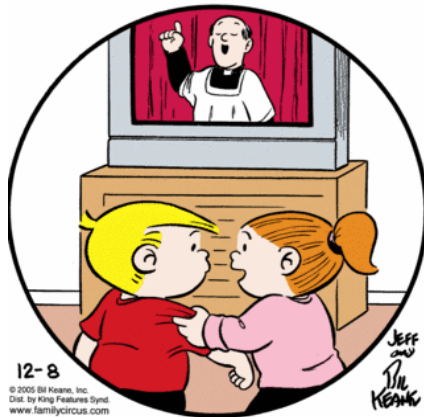
Lamar First
Baptist Church



lamarfbc.org

OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD

FBC has been Operation Christmas Child's area drop off location for the past 10 years. I have been acting coordinator the past 6. I am reaching out to see if anyone would be interested in taking over some of the responsibilities that go along with being a drop off location. Someone that can be hands on, keeping up with paperwork, attending meetings, packing cartons and arranging delivery. If we are to keep First Baptist as OCC's area drop off, I will need help. If you would like more information, or are interested in learning more about OCC, give me a call at the office 719-336-4953 or at 719-940-8108. -Kammie



"Hear that? People in heaven have ever-laughing life."



"We learned the fourth commandment: 'Honor thy father and thy mother.'"



"Big toes don't like flip-flops 'cause it separates them from their friends."

BIRTHDAYS

August

ANNIVERSARIES

- 1 Elizabeth Mortimeyer
- 2 Debbie Haggard
- 3 Earl Mortimeyer
- 3 Nathan Haggard
- 4 Jon Stroh
- 6 Annessa Stulp
- 8 Mary Lacy
- 12 Justin Mortimeyer
- 13 Sandy Campbell
- 17 Sarah Carrillo
- 18 Jay Rowan
- 19 Andy Flint
- 22 Nellie Mauch
- 26 Ken Callison
- 26 Nick Peterson

- 2 Willie & Alice Rohr
- 7 Craig & Leigh Forney
- 9 Rick & Kristie Daniel
- 9 Jeff & Crystal Flint
- 14 Bruce & Judy Bailey
- 15 Gary & Cindy Anderson
- 24 Justin & Jenni Mortimeyer
- 24 Randy & Kammie Hager
- 28 Gary & Sandy Campbell
- 28 Nick & Amanda Peterson

If we have missed your birthday or anniversary please call the church office at 719-336-4953 and let us know.



The Lamar Care Net Pregnancy Center had to close our doors because of the Covid-19 virus as well as many other Care Net Pregnancy Centers across the country. The board of Directors decided that even though we were not able to open our doors during this time, we would continue to provide limited services. During that time, we had families who contacted us, and we were blessed to be able to deliver and provide curb service for those families with bags containing wipes, Bibles, children's books and diapers. We serviced families in Granada, Lamar, Springfield, and Wiley. During that time, we gave out 2,567 diapers. We are now able to open our doors while continuing to follow guidelines.

Because of the shutdown, we were not able to have one of our major fundraisers for the center. We continue to have needs for our center as we are trying to help and minister to our clients. Please pray for us during the rest of this year. If you feel lead to help us, we would appreciate a donation or bring by diapers or wipes, to the Care Net Pregnancy Center 201 E. Oak St. (PO Box 1122), Lamar, Colorado 81052. We are open on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 11:00 to 4:00. If you have questions, please call the center at 336-1135 or my cell 688-4635.

Debbie Widener— Director

A BLESSING-Numbers 6:24-26

May The Lord Bless you and Protect you.

May The Lord smile on you and Be Gracious to you

May The Lord Show you His Favor and give you His Peace.

2020 ABCRM Gathering

September 24-26

A Virtual Gathering of American Baptist

In this time of limited gatherings and uncertainty,
ABCRM will hold the 2020 ABCRM Gathering virtually.

- Empowering Worship Friday Evening
- Relevant Workshops spaced to make participation easier
- The Pastors Celebration Dinner will be a virtual cooking class
- Missionary Mondays in October
- And of course, a business meeting Saturday morning

More information can
be found on their
webpage at
www.abcrm.org

Congratulations Sarah Carrillo

Sarah has been selected to receive one of the Rev. Wayne & Beverly Fink Scholarship Awards through First Baptist Church. Sarah will be attending UCCS this fall. Her course of study is biology, and she plans to become a Physical Therapist.

We wish you well Sarah! You will continue to be in our thoughts and prayers.

H S D L S N T X L U R N T
 E R I O H E E B X E O D N
 I E S R T B P T G I C E E
 G L T D A U K A T H N U S
 H U R W E A R A R I C V E
 T R E Q D D L I M A R L R
 H Q S X E U S A L D T W P
 I S S D B T F D A N G E R
 N N O I T A E R C O E F R
 G H R C O N Q U E R O R S
 S T S L E G N A P E E H S
 P O W E R S L O V E L C E

Romans 8:35-39

Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? Shall tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or danger, or sword? As it is written, “For your sake we are being killed all the day long; we are regarded as sheep to be slaughtered.” No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us. For I am sure that neither death nor life, nor angels nor rulers, nor things present nor things to come, nor powers, nor height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.